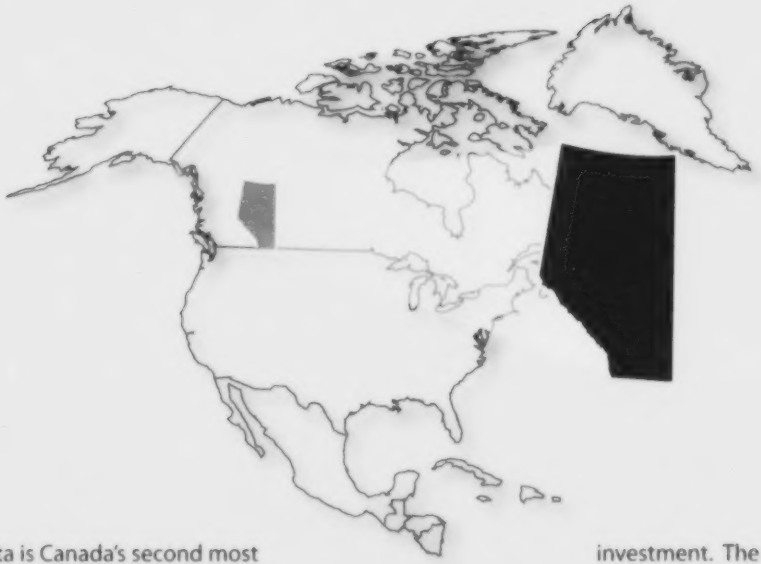
Highlights of the Alberta Economy 2007

Alberta Government
Canada



Alberta is Canada's second most western province. The province's borders touch the Canadian Rocky Mountains to the west, the vast prairies to the east, the United States to the south and the Canadian arctic to the north.

On average the province's 3.4 million people are the youngest of all Canadian provinces, with a median age of 35.5 years. One of every seven Albertans was born outside of Canada. This young, diverse population is well educated with more than half of the 1.9 million-strong labour force holding a post-secondary degree, diploma or certificate.

Alberta's economy is also booming, leading the nation in economic growth, employment and investment. The energy sector is the driving economic force while being supported by other key industry sectors such as petrochemicals, agriculture and agri-food, forestry and wood products, tourism, information and communications technology, nanotechnology and microsystems, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals and health technology and services

Alberta's international airports in Edmonton and Calgary provide excellent air service to both domestic and international destinations. To promote its presence in key markets, Alberta operates nine international trade and investment offices, including six in Alberta's second-largest market, Asia.

2008-02117/

Minister's Message

It is an exciting time to be in Alberta. Whether you are an investor, job seeker, entrepreneur or employer, the opportunities are endless.

This booklet contains the highlights of an economy in the midst of the strongest period of economic growth ever recorded in Canada. In 2006, Alberta enjoyed the highest economic growth of any province, $90 million in exports, $75 million in investment, a record low 3.4 unemployment rate and 86,000 in employment growth.

Other topics found in this publication include key industry statistics for energy, agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, information and communications technologies and tourism while other sections details the benefits of going business, working and living in Alberta.

If you are interested in more information about Alberta, I encourage you to contact Employment, Immigration and Industry or visit www.alberta-canada.com/statpub or www.industry.alberta.ca

Regards,

Honourable Iris Evans
Minister, Employment, Immigration and Industry

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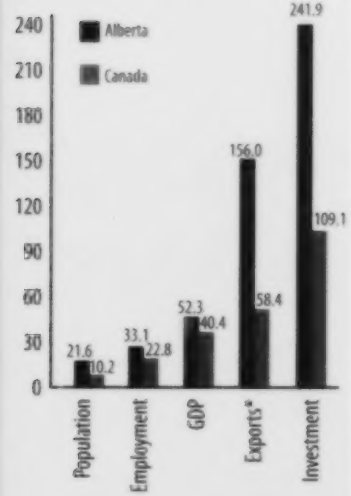
Economic Highlights

Growth In Selected Indicators:
1996-2006 (per cent change)



*Goods Exports
Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry

GROWTH

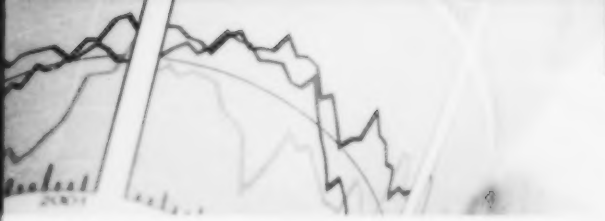
Alberta's Economic Performance Leads The Nation

According to Statistics Canada, "Alberta is in the midst of the strongest period of economic growth ever recorded by any Canadian province." Over a span of one year, Alberta's population increased by three per cent to reach 3.4 million by July 2006. The official Statistics Canada census in 2006 indicated that the population of Alberta increased by 315,000 since the last census five years ago.

The Alberta economy expanded by 6.8 per cent in 2006, more than double the national rate. For the third consecutive year, Alberta posted the highest economic growth rate in Canada.

Employment increased by a net 86,300 full-time positions in 2006, and international merchandise exports reached a record high of $81.3 billion. Investment totaled $75.3 billion, housing starts reached a historic high 48,962, and retail trade continued to stimulate the economy, rising 16.0 per cent to $56.6 billion.

Private sector forecasts expect Alberta to continue to lead the country in economic growth in 2007 and 2008.



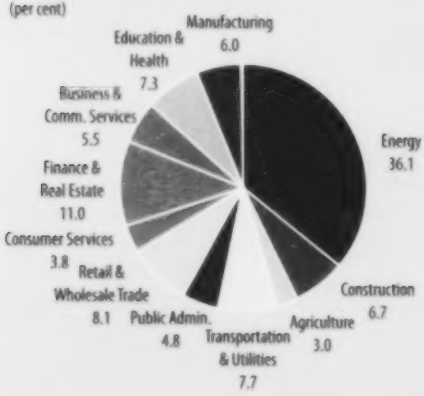
ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

Alberta's diverse economy provides the broad-based growth that is crucial to sustaining stable, long-term economic growth.

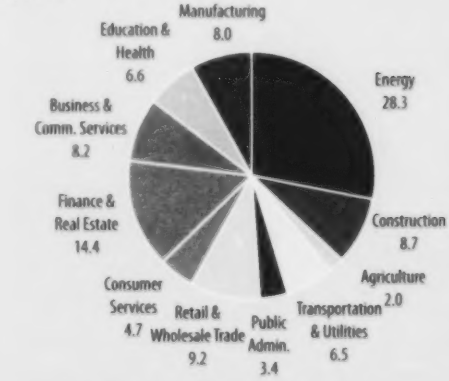
Energy remains the key driver of Alberta's buoyant economy, accounting for more than one-quarter of the province's GDP. However, compared to 1985, energy's contribution to the province's GDP declined from 36 per cent to 28 per cent in 2005 — a result of strong growth in other sectors of the economy.

The three non-energy sectors that registered the strongest expansion from 1985 to 2005 were the finance and real estate sector (11.0 per cent to 14.4 per cent), the business and commercial services sector (5.5 per cent to 8.2 per cent) and the manufacturing sector (6.0 per cent to 8.0 per cent). The combined contribution of these three sectors expanded from 22.5 per cent in 1985 to 30.6 per cent in 2005.

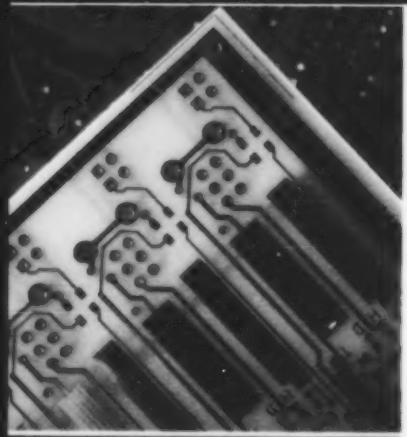
Economic Diversity: 1985
Percentage Distribution of GDP
Total GDP: $66.5 Billion
(per cent)

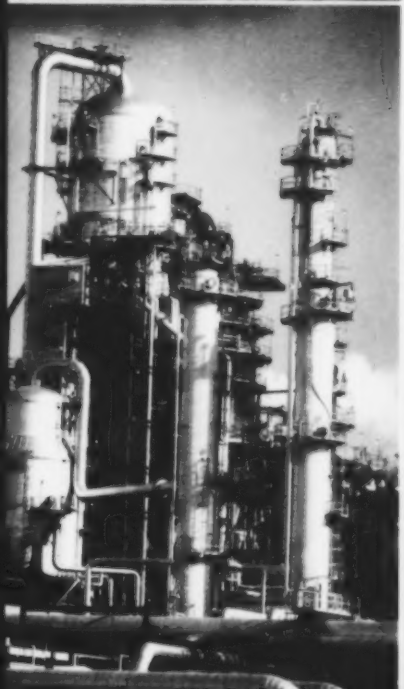


Economic Diversity: 2005
Percentage Distribution of GDP
Total GDP: $218.4 Billion
(per cent)



Source: Alberta Finance



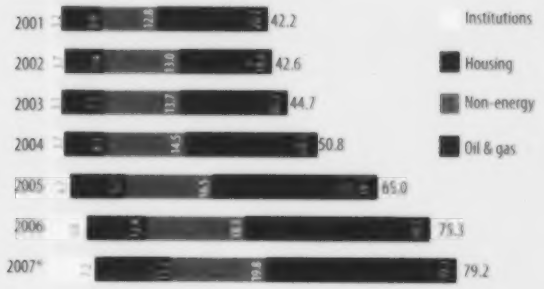


INVESTMENT

Alberta continues to be a haven for investment. The province's history of strong investment enabled the province to lead the nation in per capita investment. In 2006, per capita investment in Alberta was $22,296, more than twice the national average of $9,113.

An estimated $79 billion is projected to be invested in 2007 based on reported intentions. Continued investment growth in the next three to four years will be driven by oil sands development, utilities, information and communication technology and business services.

Total Investment in Alberta Capital Expenditures ($ Billions)



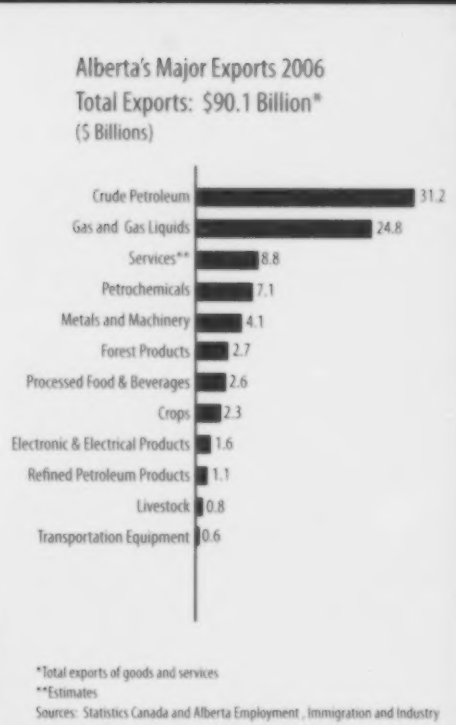
* Intentions

Source: Statistics Canada

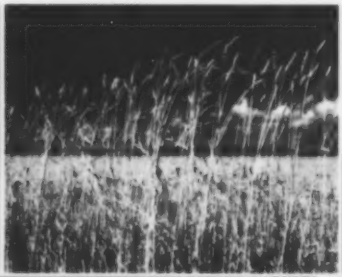
EXPORTS

In 2006, Alberta exported $90.1 billion worth of goods and services to 188 countries, an increase of 40.4 per cent from the value five years ago.

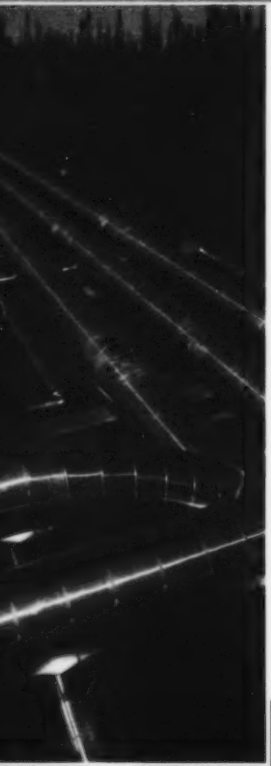
Alberta's export performance in 2006 was driven mainly by the energy sector (particularly crude oil) and the strong recovery of agricultural exports. Alberta also exports an increasing volume and variety of manufactured products. Exports of manufactured products rose by 21.5 per cent between 2001 and 2006.



*Total exports of goods and services
**Estimates
Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry



A Diversified and Resource-Rich Economy



ENERGY

Energy Revenue

Energy is the engine of Alberta's economy. Alberta produces 70% of Canada's crude oil and 80% of its natural gas.

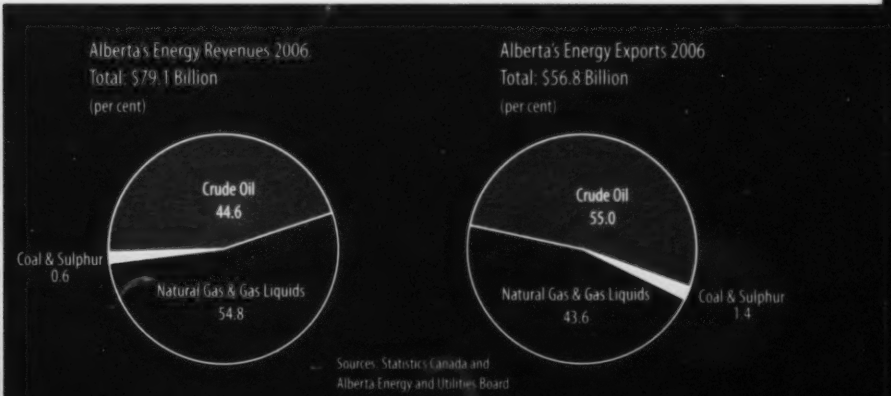
Including oil sands, Alberta has the second largest petroleum reserves in the world, second only to Saudi Arabia.

Production from oil sands is expected to nearly triple from current production of 1.1 million barrels per day to close to 3.0 million barrels per day by 2015.

Gross revenues from all hydrocarbons were $79.1 billion in 2006, with natural gas revenues accounting for more than half of the total.

Alberta's Energy Exports

In 2006, energy resource exports accounted for $56.8 billion of Alberta's exports, about 64 per cent of Alberta's total exports of goods and services in that year. High oil and gas prices were the key drivers of the dominance of energy exports.



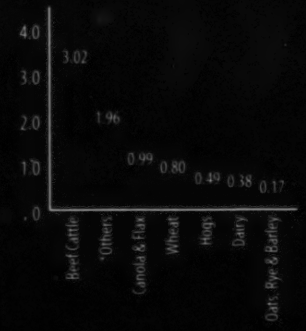
AGRICULTURE

With more than 51 million acres (20 million hectares) of land used for crop and livestock production, Alberta has one of the world's most productive agricultural economies.

In 2006, total farm cash receipts reached $7.8 billion. Alberta represented 21.1 per cent of the value of Canada's total agricultural production and posted the country's highest livestock market receipts.

Besides a strong primary agricultural sector, Alberta also has an expanding value-added agricultural products sector. In 2006, manufacturing shipments of Alberta's food and beverage processing industries reached $9.6 billion. Meat product manufacturing accounted for more than half of the sector's shipments.

Alberta's Major Agricultural Products 2006
Farm Cash Receipts ($ Billions)
Total: $7.8 Billion



*Includes specialty cash crops, honey, poultry, eggs, program payments, etc.
Source: Statistics Canada

FORESTRY

Shipments of forest products reached $5.1 billion in 2006, and exports were $2.7 billion.

Alberta covers over 66 million hectares of land, 58 per cent or 38 million hectares of which is forested. Of the forested area, about 60 per cent or 22.5 million hectares are considered suitable for harvest.

Annually, Alberta allows 26.1 million cubic meters (m^3) to be harvested, of which 15.0 million m^3 is coniferous, and 11.2 million m^3 is deciduous.

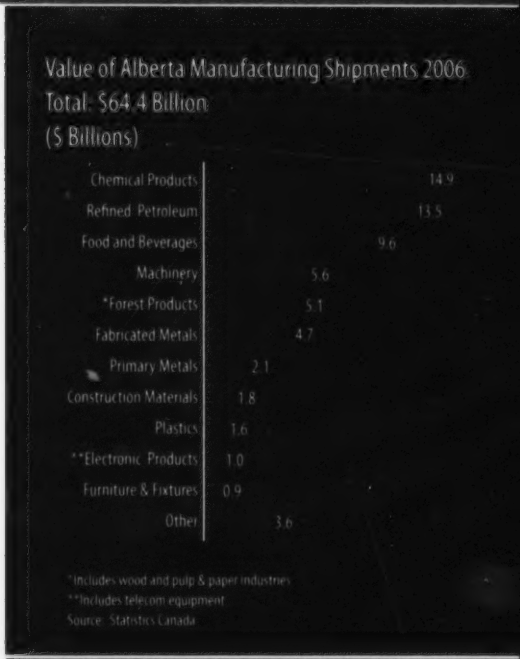
Alberta's commercially productive timber land base of 22.5 million hectares covers 35 per cent of Alberta's total area and includes in excess of 2.2 billion m^3 of growing stock.

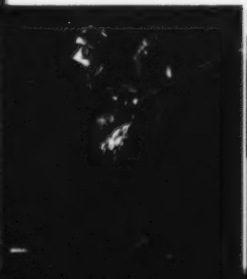
MANUFACTURING

Between 1996 and 2006, Alberta's manufacturing shipments more than doubled to $64.4 billion. In 2006, Alberta led all Canadian provinces in manufacturing shipment growth, increasing 6.8 per cent from 2005, compared to a decline of 0.6 per cent for the nation.

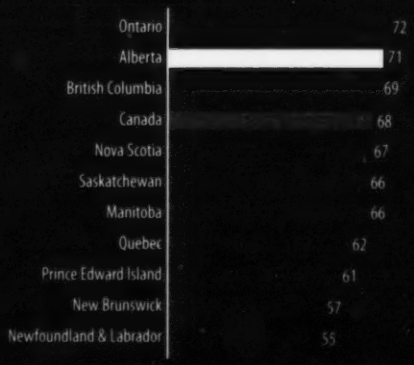
Real manufacturing output in Alberta has gained momentum since 2004, expanding by 6.5 per cent in 2004 and 6.3 per cent in 2005. By comparison, Canadian manufacturing output grew by less than two per cent over the same period.

Alberta's manufacturing sector is closely tied to the resource sector. About two-thirds of manufacturing output consists of value-added resource products such as petrochemicals, forest products and processed food. In 2006, the largest manufacturing sectors were chemicals, refined petroleum products, and food and beverages. Thanks to the booming economy, almost all manufacturing sectors posted growth in 2006, led by machinery, fabricated metals, chemicals, and primary metals.





Internet Usage – Canada 2005
Percentage of Adults Accessing the Internet



Internet Usage – International 2005
Percentage of Adults Accessing the Internet

Sources: Statistics Canada and Ipsos-Reid

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Alberta's information and communication technology (ICT) sector includes companies that produce computer equipment and services, software, navigational and medical instruments, and telecommunication equipment and services.

In 2005, the province's 4,300 ICT companies generated $9.4 billion in revenue, $1.6 billion in exports and employed 56,900 Albertans.

That same year, Alberta ranked second in the country (behind Ontario) for internet use with 71 per cent of adult Albertans accessing the net. The strong connectivity of Alberta is partly attributable to the Alberta Supernet, a network that connects hospitals, schools, libraries and government buildings with affordable high speed internet access.

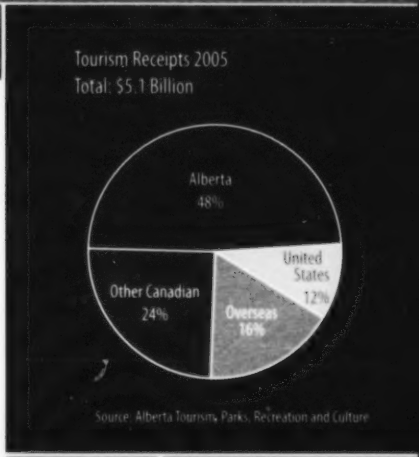
TOURISM

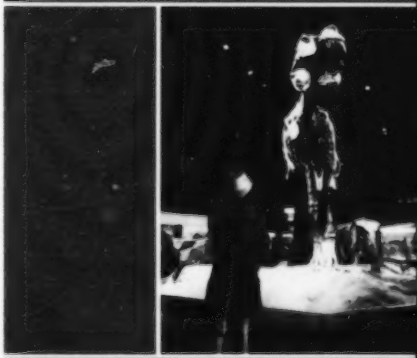
Alberta's tourism industry offers visitors a wide variety of attractions ranging from natural scenic beauty, diverse landscapes, world renowned national parks, bustling shopping areas, festivals, and athletic events.

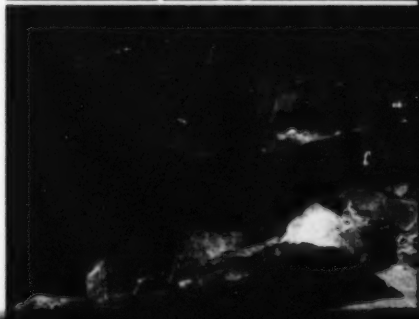
Tourism supports more than 103,000 jobs for Albertans, and generated an estimated $5.1 billion in revenues in 2005. More than half of this amount, about $2.6 billion, came from out-of-province visitors.

The Alberta Rockies was the top tourism draw in 2005, generating over $1 billion in tourism receipts. Edmonton was a close second with its world-renowned West Edmonton Mall and its numerous festivals. The mountain parks regions and the urban centers of Edmonton and Calgary accounted for 60 per cent of the province's tourism receipts.

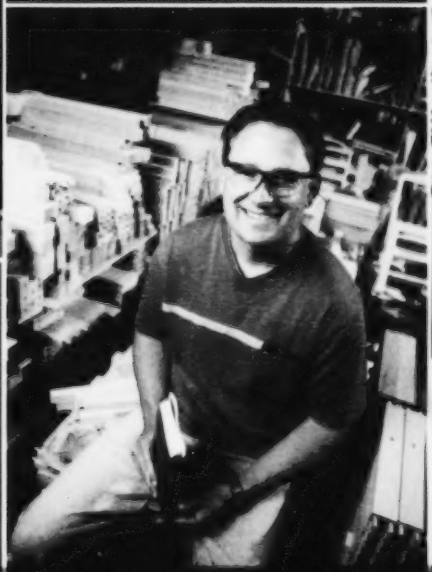
Alberta continues to explore new opportunities to promote its thriving tourism industry. In October 2006, 31 southeastern Alberta municipalities banded together to develop the Canadian Badlands and turn the region into a tourism icon. The Canadian Badlands are home to the Royal Tyrrell Museum, a world class dinosaur museum, and known by paleontologists and dinosaur enthusiasts the world over as one of the most prolific depositories of dinosaur fossils in the world.

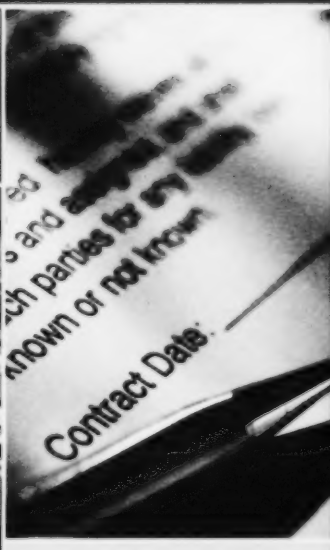


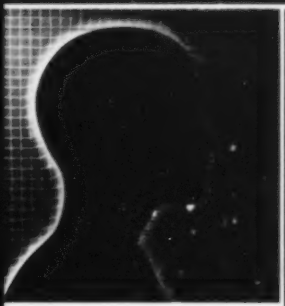




Doing Business in Alberta







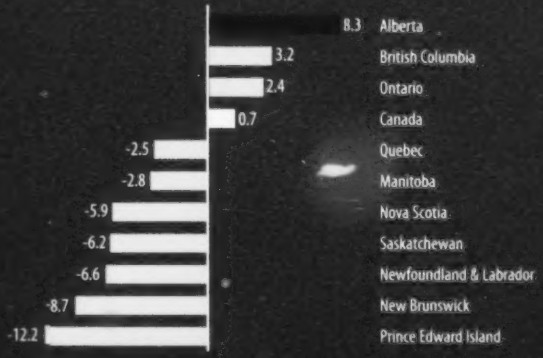
INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Alberta's dynamic and innovative business climate is evident by the growth in the number of small businesses.

Leading Canada in the increase of small businesses, Alberta saw an increase of almost nine per cent or 11,633 employer businesses, between the fourth quarter of the year 2000 and the fourth quarter of 2005. For the same period, the province's increase of businesses with less than ten employees was also the highest at 7.6 per cent compared to the Canadian average of 0.1 per cent.

Between 2001 and 2004, Alberta's small business rate was cut in half to 3% and the small business income threshold was doubled to $430,000. This threshold will be further increased to $500,000 by 2009.

Small Business – Cornerstone of the Economy 2000 – 2005
Percentage Change in Employer Businesses



Source: Canadian Business Patterns, Statistics Canada

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Alberta's network of research and development institutions is leading the way in the development and commercialization of advanced products and processes.

The Alberta Government's research and development expenditures are among the highest, on a per capita basis, in Canada. The provincial government has provided $1 billion for the creation of a new Alberta Ingenuity Fund to provide long term funding for research and development in a variety of science and engineering fields.

The University of Alberta is home to the new National Institute for Nanotechnology which is expected to be one of the top five nanotechnology centres in the world. Nanotechnology is the application of science and engineering at the atomic scale making possible revolutionary developments in medicine, materials, pharmaceuticals, and electronics. Discoveries and applications of nanotechnology could lead to a new industrial revolution and the commercial possibilities value the nanotechnology industry at $1.5 trillion per year within the next 10-15 years. Alberta is clearly at the forefront of this leading edge industry and will stand to benefit not only in terms of its commercial potential but also through the intellectual resources that the institute continues to attract. There are currently 80 researchers and scientific and technical staff at the institute and this is expected to grow to over 200 in the next two years.

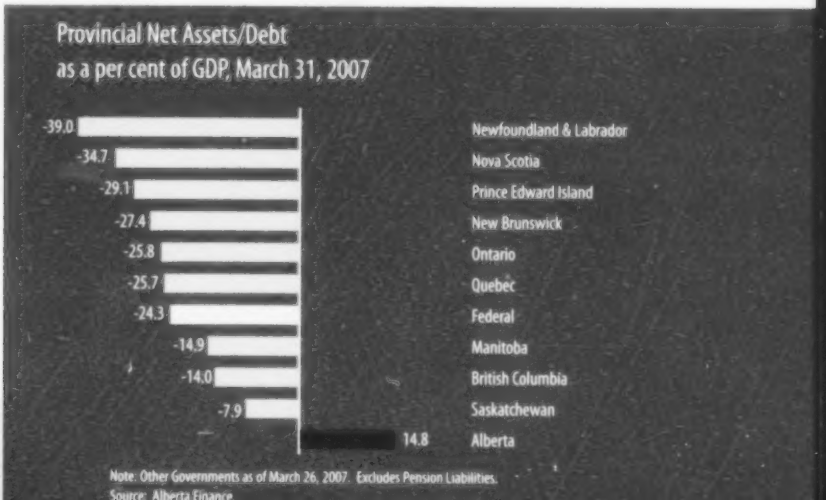
Advanced Technology Institutes & Facilities:

- National Institute for Nanotechnology
- TRLabs (Telecommunications Research Laboratories)
- Alberta Science and Research Authority (ASRA)
- Alberta Research Council
- Microsystems Technology Research Institute (MISTRI)
- Netera Alliance
- Network for Emerging Wireless Technology (NEWT)
- Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Machine Learning

GOVERNMENT

Attracting investment and encouraging job growth in the private sector has long been the mantra of the Alberta Government. To encourage investment, government is committed to free enterprise, sustainable economic development, a competitive tax environment, a strong infrastructure, and less regulation and red tape.

As a result of government's commitment, Alberta is the only debt-free province in Canada, coming from having the highest annual deficit as a percentage of GDP in 1992-93 to having surpluses in each of the past 13 years.



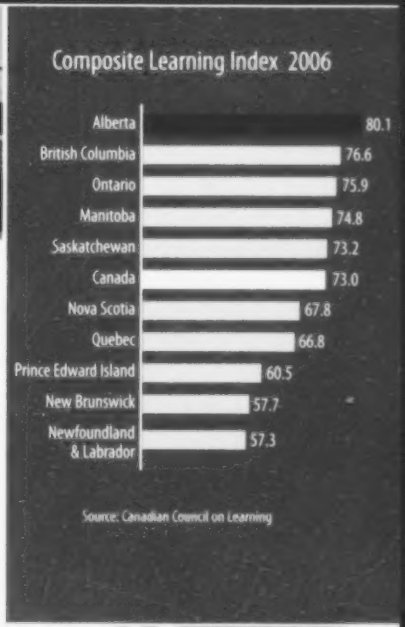
EDUCATED WORK FORCE

Alberta's labour force consists of almost two million well-educated workers. In 2006, 60 per cent of the labour force, 25 years of age and older, reported holding a university degree, post-secondary diploma or certificate.

Alberta's education system provides a learning environment conducive to economic and social success and encourages an environment that supports the pursuit of life-long learning.

The Canadian Council on Learning, an independent think-tank, developed a Composite Learning Index (CLI) which combines data based on 15 indicators that measure the learning environment. Indicators range from access to on-the-job-training, early childhood development programs, access to resources such as libraries, and exposure to sports, media, recreation and cultural events.

Alberta's CLI was the highest among the Canadian provinces, with an index of 80.1. This represented a 3.5 point advantage over second-ranked British Columbia, and a 7.1 point advantage over the Canadian CLI. Calgary and Edmonton finished as the first and third ranked Canadian cities, respectively.



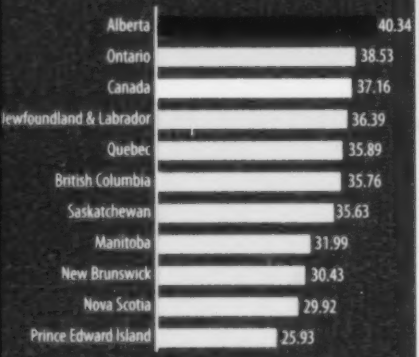
PRODUCTIVITY

In 2005, Alberta's economic productivity was higher than any other province's. The total value added per hour in Alberta exceeded the Canadian average by 8.6 per cent. The only other province to exceed the Canadian average (of 100 per cent) was Ontario with 103.7 per cent.

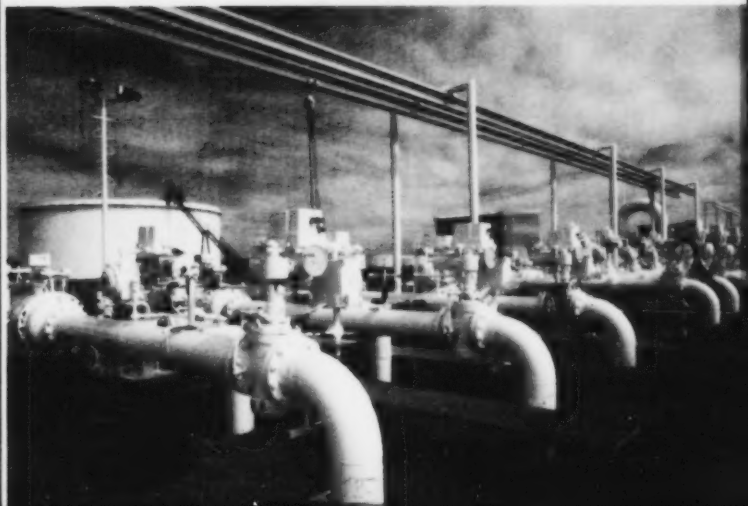
With one of the best labour records in Canada, Alberta companies have lost the fewest workdays due to strikes.

Alberta's manufacturing sector also had the highest productivity of all provinces, partly because of its highly productive chemical, machinery and food processing industries.

Labour Productivity 2005
Real GDP per hour worked, in 1997 constant dollars



Source: Statistics Canada, Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry



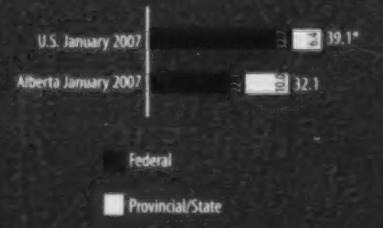
TAXES

With recent tax changes, Alberta has one of the most competitive business tax environments in North America. The combined federal/ provincial corporate income tax rate is 32.1 per cent in 2007.

The Government of Alberta reduced its general corporate income tax rate to ten per cent in 2006. The Government of Canada is also reducing the general corporate income tax rate to 18.5% by 2011.

The new income tax rates combined with the fact that Alberta has no provincial capital taxes, no payroll taxes, no sales tax, and has a publicly funded health care insurance system makes Alberta's tax environment very competitive.

Comparison of Corporate Income Tax Rates



*6.4% represents the average effective top general state corporate income tax rate
Rates known as of January 2007
Source: Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry and Federation of Tax Administrators

Provincial Capital and Payroll Tax Rates (Maximum per cent)

Province	Capital Tax (General)	Payroll Tax
Alberta	-	-
British Columbia	-	-
Saskatchewan	-	-
Manitoba	0.50	2.15
Ontario	0.29	1.95
Quebec	0.49	4.26
New Brunswick	0.20	-
Nova Scotia	0.25	-
Newfoundland & Labrador	-	2.00
Prince Edward Island	-	-

Rates effective March 30, 2007
Source: Budget 2007, Alberta Finance

Provincial Corporate Income Tax Rates (Per Cent)

Province	General	Manufacturing & Processing	Small Business
Newfoundland & Labrador	14.0	5.0	5.0
Prince Edward Island	16.0	16.0	4.3
Nova Scotia	16.0	16.0	5.0
New Brunswick	13.0	13.0	5.0
Quebec	9.9	9.9	8.0
Ontario	14.0	12.0	5.5
Manitoba	14.0	14.0	3.0
Saskatchewan*	13.0	10.0 -13.0	4.5
Alberta	10.0	10.0	3.0
British Columbia	12.0	12.0	4.5
Federal	22.12	22.12	13.12

State Corporate Income Tax Rates (Per Cent)

State	General	Manufacturing & Processing	Small Business (b)
Washington (a)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oregon	6.6	6.6	6.6
California	8.84	8.84	8.84
North Dakota	7.0	7.0	6.86
Montana	6.75	6.75	6.75
Idaho	7.6	7.6	7.6
Colorado	4.63	4.63	4.63
Utah	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Mexico	7.6	7.6	4.8
Louisiana	8.0	8.0	6.97
Federal	35.0	32.90	34.0

Rates effective May 1, 2007
*Effective July 1, 2007
(a) Washington has a business occupation tax in lieu of an income tax, which is based on gross revenue sales (0.471% to 1.5% according to the type of business)
(b) State small business rate is the effective tax rate for US$365,500 (comparable to Alberta threshold of Cdn$430,000). U.S. federal small business rate is the effective rate for US$340,000 (comparable to Canadian federal threshold of Cdn$400,000).

Source: PWC Tax News Network, Federation of Tax Administrators

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD PREMIUMS

The Alberta Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) has taken major steps over the past several years to improve operations and reduce accident claims.

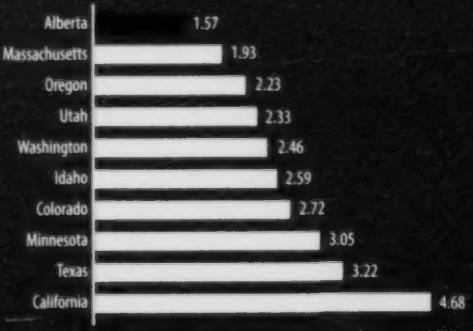
Alberta's 2006 estimated rate of $1.57 per $100 of insurable earnings is the lowest of all provinces. The 2007 average premium rate per $100 of insurable earnings is forecast to be $1.43.

Alberta has one of the lowest premium rates in North America. Alberta's premium rate per $100 payroll in 2006 was the third lowest in North America, and was about one-third of California's premium rate and half the rate in Texas.

Workers' Compensation Board Premiums
Canada
2007 Assessment Rates* Per $100 Payroll

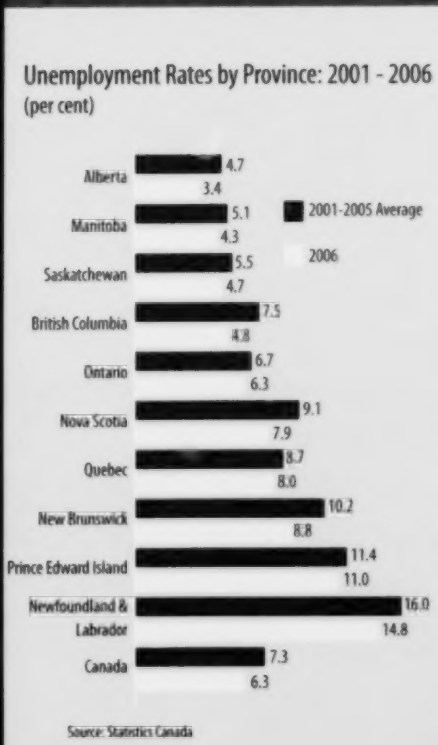
* Provisional as of January 1, 2007
Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada

Workers' Compensation Board Premiums
United States
2006 Assessment Rates* Per $100 Payroll



* Rates in effect as of January 1, 2006
Note: 1 US$ = 1.13 Can$
Source: Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services

Working in Alberta



STRONG LABOUR MARKET

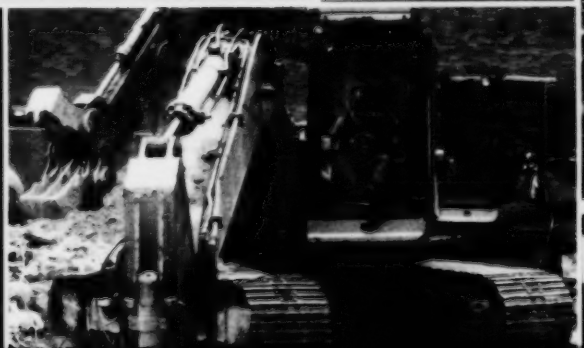
In addition to its abundance of natural resources, Alberta also has an abundance of opportunities available for workers.

Alberta's unemployment rate has consistently been one of the three lowest of all the provinces in Canada, and has been the lowest in the country since 2004.

Alberta employment has grown an average of 46,560 new jobs per year since 1996, a growth rate of 2.9 per cent per annum.

In 2006, average employment in the Alberta economy increased by 86,300 over 2005.

Alberta's unemployment rate averaged 4.7 per cent from 2001 to 2005, and was 3.4 per cent in 2006.



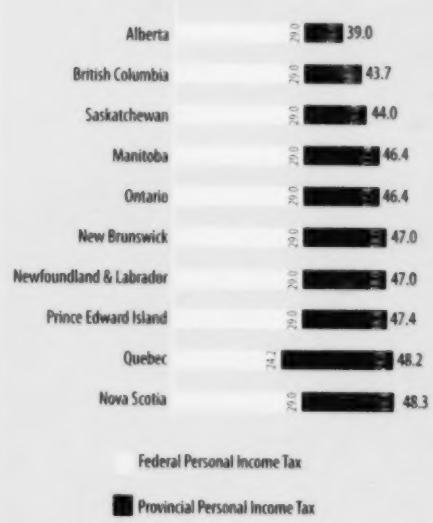
TAXES

Alberta's personal tax advantage results from a low single rate tax system, no general sales tax and the lowest gasoline tax among the provinces.

In 2001, Alberta switched to a single rate of tax on personal income of 10 per cent.

Albertans pay low personal income taxes, with the lowest top marginal income tax rate and the highest basic and spousal tax exemption in Canada.

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rates 2007
(per cent)



Note: Includes surtaxes
Source: PWC Tax News Network, May 1, 2007

Comparison of Provincial and Federal Taxes by Province: Two Income Family of Four - $75,000*

Comparison of Provincial and Federal Taxes by Province: Two Income Family of Four - $125,000*

*As of March 2007
Source: Alberta Finance

The overall tax burden on individual Albertans is the lowest of any province in Canada.

Alberta is the only province without a provincial sales tax, and has the lowest gasoline taxes in the country.

A two-income family of four, earning $75,000 pays about $1,825 less in total provincial taxes, including health care premiums, sales and other excise taxes, in Alberta than in Ontario and approximately $3,284 less than in Quebec.

A two-income family of four, earning $125,000 pays approximately $2,846 less in total provincial taxes, including health care premiums, sales and other excise taxes, in Alberta than in Ontario and about $9,540 less than in Quebec.

FAMILY INCOME

A 2006 Statistics Canada study reported that in 2004 for the first time, Alberta families with two or more people had the highest median after-tax income. After-tax family income is comprised of market income and government transfers net of income taxes. The year before, Alberta and Ontario were in a tie.

Half of all families in Alberta had after-tax income of $61,800 or more, up from $59,300 in 2003. Alberta leads the country in the growth in median after-tax family income. From 1996 to 2004, after-tax family income (after accounting for inflation) increased by 25.4 per cent compared to the Canadian average of 14.9 per cent.

Another measure of income, median family market income (sum of earnings from employment, investment income and private retirement income excluding government transfers), indicated that in 2004 Alberta families had $66,900 in income, 20 per cent more than the Canadian average of $55,800, and $3,800 more than second-ranked Ontario.

2004 Median After-Tax Family Income
Families with Two Persons or More

Source: Statistics Canada

Provincial Comparison 2005

International Comparison 2004

Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

The Centre for the Study of Living Standards, which is based in Ottawa, publishes an index of economic well-being. This index was developed to better measure economic welfare.

Alberta has been the nation's leader in economic well-being since 1993. In 2005, Alberta maintained the top spot in the nation with an index value of 0.72, a 19 per cent advantage over the Canadian average. The province's strong performance in economic well-being indicators was also evident in international comparisons. In 2004, Alberta led all 14 OECD nations in an international comparison of economic well-being.

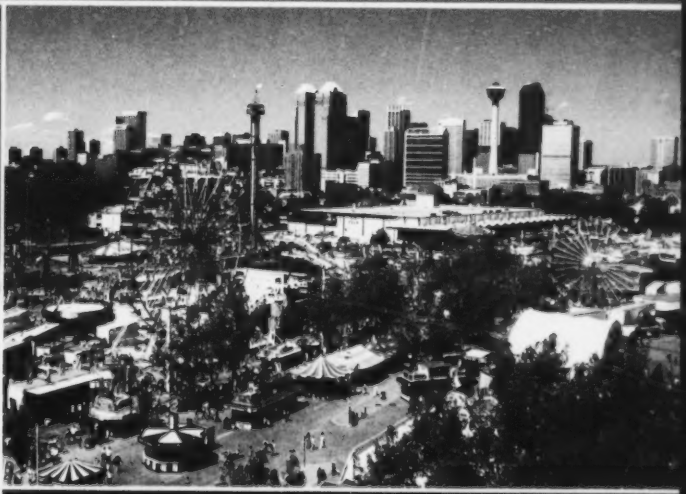
The four components of this index are:

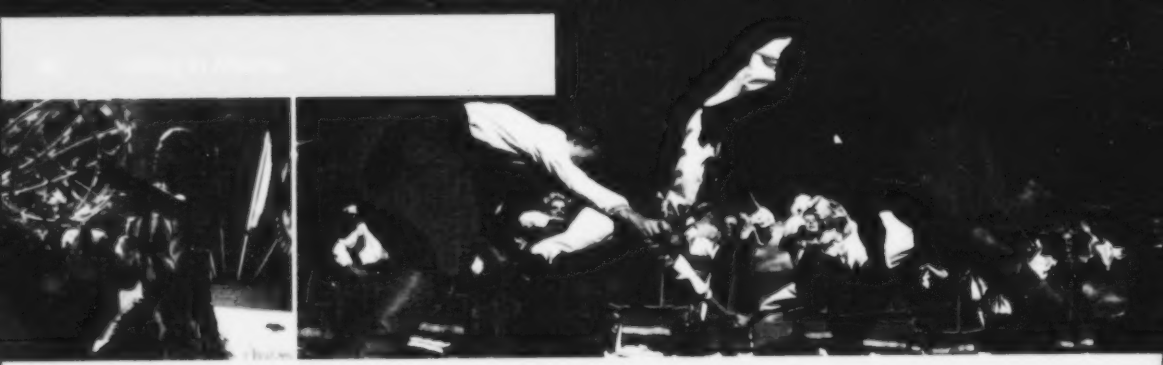
- Consumption Flows: consumption or effective per capita consumption flows (such as personal consumption per capita, life expectancy, and government services per capita);
- Wealth Stocks: wealth or net societal accumulation of stocks of productive resources (such as per capita stock of natural resources, per capita R&D stock, and per capita capital stock);
- Income Distribution: equality (index of poverty intensity);
- Economic Security: security from risk of adverse circumstances (such as unemployment, illness, single parent family poverty, and poverty in old age).

"...record resource revenues and the positive job market will continue to attract businesses and job seekers, boosting Alberta's population growth beyond that of other provinces. Overall, ecomonic growth is expected to reach an average annual compound rate of 4.1 per cent during the first decade of this century..."

-Conference Board of Canada, Provincial Outlook Executive Summary 2007

Living in Alberta





PEOPLE

Alberta is home to an ethnically diverse population. The vast majority of the population is of European ancestry, with a strong representation of Aboriginal and Metis people and an increasing number of migrants from Asia and other regions, all contributing to a rich cultural diversity in Alberta.

People from China and India comprise four per cent and two per cent of the population, respectively. Both Edmonton and Calgary boast a vibrant Chinatown. Alberta's major cities also host several multicultural events. Edmonton's multicultural Heritage Days is a weekend festival in August that is participated in by over 70 national groups. Calgary hosts Carifest, the country's second-largest Caribbean festival next to Toronto's Caribana.

Alberta Population by Ethnic Origin, 2001

Ethnic Origin	Number	% of Total Population
Total	*2,941,150*	*100.0*
Canadian	813,485	27.7
English	753,190	25.6
German	576,350	19.6
Scottish	556,575	18.9
Irish	461,065	15.7
French	332,675	11.3
Ukrainian	285,725	9.7
Dutch (Netherlands)	149,225	5.1
North American Indian	144,040	4.9
Polish	137,625	4.7
Norwegian	120,045	4.1
Chinese	108,050	3.7
Swedish	78,565	2.7
Italian	67,655	2.3

Ethnic Origin	Number	% of Total Population
Total	*2,941,150*	*100.0*
Metis	63,620	2.2
Russian	62,750	2.1
East Indian	61,180	2.1
Welsh	59,470	2.0
Danish	50,465	1.7
American (USA)	49,875	1.7
Hungarian (Magyar)	41,535	1.4
Filipino	36,235	1.2
Austrian	27,910	0.9
Vietnamese	21,490	0.7
Romanian	20,235	0.7
British, not included elsewhere	20,185	0.7
Spanish	19,295	0.7
Lebanese	17,660	0.6

Note: These numbers add up to more than the population due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population

EDUCATION

Albertans are among the best educated people in North America.

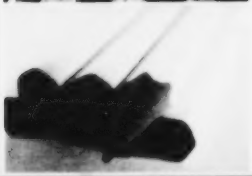
Alberta's post-secondary system has a total of 28 institutions, including four universities, two technical institutes, 14 public colleges, seven private university colleges that receive public funding, and the Banff Centre which is a learning centre dedicated to the arts and leadership development.

The province's four universities have over 111,000 students in total. About 250,000 students are enrolled in the public post-secondary education system.

Many private and religious educational institutions also serve Alberta.

University of Alberta	Canada's second largest English-speaking university with about 39,000 students**. Extensive research facilities.
University of Calgary	With about 31,000 students**. U of C is a major research centre.
University of Lethbridge	Has a focus on liberal arts and select professional programs (9,000 students**).
*NAIT & SAIT	Among the largest polytechnical institutes in Canada, with over 47,000 students** in total.
Public Colleges	14 public colleges with about 87,000 students** in total.
Private Colleges	7 private (but publicly funded) university colleges with about 5,000 students** in total.

* Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and Southern Alberta Institute of Technology ** Full Time and Part Time Students, 2004-2005



Alberta ranks with the world's best in terms of the quality of education. The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a tool developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to provide policy-oriented indicators of the skills and knowledge of 15-year olds' capabilities as they near the end of compulsory education. Since 2000, PISA reports on reading literacy, mathematical literacy and scientific literacy every three years.

The 2003 examinations placed Alberta among the top ranks of the 41 countries and ten Canadian provinces where the tests were conducted. Alberta students have the second highest score in mathematics and reading, and have the fourth highest average score in science.

Top Scores in Mathematics, Science and Reading - 2003 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) Examinations : Average = 500

Mathematics			Science			Reading		
Rank	Jurisdiction	Score	Rank	Jurisdiction	Score	Rank	Jurisdiction	Score
1	Hong Kong	550	1	Finland	548	1	Finland	543
2	Alberta	549	2	Japan	548	2	Alberta	543
3	Finland	544	3	Hong Kong	539	3	British Columbia	535
4	South Korea	542	4	Alberta	539	4	South Korea	534
5	British Columbia	538	5	South Korea	538	5	Ontario	530
6	Netherlands	538	6	British Columbia	527	6	Canada	528
7	Quebec	537	7	Liechtenstein	525	7	Quebec	525
8	Liechtenstein	536	8	Australia	525	8	Australia	525
9	Japan	534	9	Macao - China	525	9	Liechtenstein	525
10	Canada	532	10	Netherlands	524	10	New Zealand	522
2	Alberta	549	4	Alberta	539	2	Alberta	543
10	Canada	532	14	Canada	519	6	Canada	528
38	United States	483	31	United States	491	27	United States	495
9	Japan	534	2	Japan	548	23	Japan	498
28	Germany	503	26	Germany	502	31	Germany	491

Notes: 1. PISA tests 15-year olds' mathematics, science and reading skills.
2. The rank is out of 50 jurisdictions.

Source: Measuring Up: Canadian Results of the 2003 OECD PISA Study, Statistics Canada

HEALTH CARE

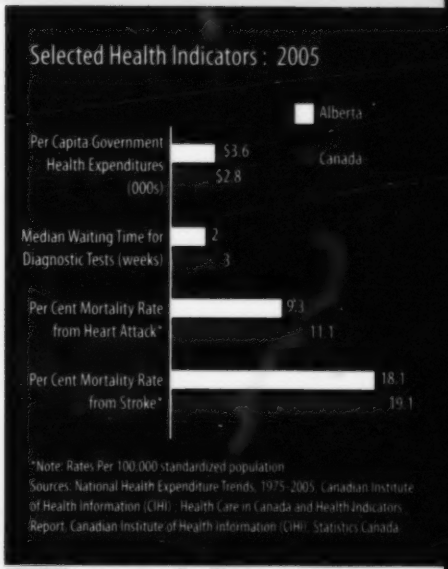
The province's health care system delivers safe and effective care. Compared to other Canadian provinces, Alberta ranks first in per capita spending on health expenditures, funding more health services than required under the Canada Health Care Act.

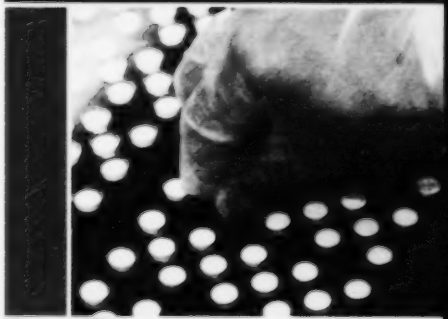
A leader in cardiac care, Alberta is reported to have the lowest in-hospital mortality rates for patients following a heart attack and the second lowest for patients admitted with stroke. The Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton is the largest pediatric heart transplant centre in Western Canada and one of the best centres in North America. As well, the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, set to open in 2007, will enable Alberta to play a prominent role in the prevention and treatment of heart disease.

Major medical centres in Edmonton and Calgary offer specialty and high technology care while pursuing active research programs. Alberta is home to several medical breakthroughs such as the pancreatic islet transplantation procedure, also known as the "Edmonton Protocol", for diabetics.

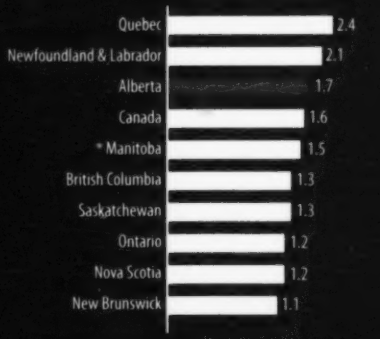
The Alberta Bone and Joint Institute in Calgary pioneered a pathway for orthopedic care through the Alberta Hip and Knee Replacement Project. The project gained national acclaim by drastically reducing wait times and improving the quality of care for orthopedic surgery.

With a recently established $500 million Alberta Cancer Prevention Legacy Fund, Alberta is leading the way in the fight against cancer.


Selected Health Indicators : 2005
Alberta
Canada
Per Capita Government Health Expenditures (000s)
$3.6
$2.8
Median Waiting Time for Diagnostic Tests (weeks)
2
3
Per Cent Mortality Rate from Heart Attack*
9.1
11.1
Per Cent Mortality Rate from Stroke*
18.1
19.1
*Note: Rates Per 100,000 standardized population
Sources: National Health Expenditure Trends, 1975-2005. Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI). Health Care in Canada and Health Indicators Report. Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI). Statistics Canada

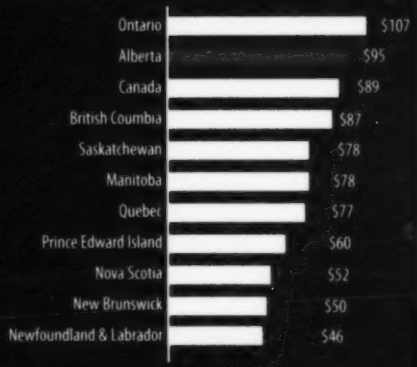


Number of Performing Arts Companies Per 100,000 Population (Not-for-Profit Portion of Survey) : 2004 [1]



[1] Note: Excludes Prince Edward Island statistics which were suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

Average Per Capita Spending on Live Performing Arts: 2004 (Annual Dollars)



Source: Statistics Canada

ARTS AND CULTURE

Alberta has a vibrant arts and culture community. A number of organizations provide festivals, events and attractions to all types of audiences.

The province's rich arts and culture scene is made possible by over 50 performing arts companies strongly supported by both the public and private sectors.

Alberta companies provide the highest per capita support to the arts in Canada. In 2004, per capita support for the performing arts was $5.87 in Alberta, compared to the Canadian average of $3.70. The average Albertan spent $95 on live performing arts in 2004, the second-highest average spending among the Canadian provinces.

In 2004, Alberta's number of performing arts companies per 100,000 population was third highest in Canada. Alberta's major cities, Calgary and Edmonton, have vigorous live theatre and visual arts scenes, as well as symphony, opera and ballet. Alberta cities have world-class cultural facilities that include concert halls and theatres that accommodate their symphony orchestras, ballet companies, touring Broadway shows, concerts, and live theatre. Local arts and culture organizations held close to 40,000 events and shows throughout the province in 2005 with total attendance reaching almost 12 million spectators.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

With 600 lakes, 245 rivers and over 78,000 square kilometres of parks, Alberta has an abundance of recreational opportunities and over 2,300 hours of sunshine each year to enjoy them. The geographic diversity of the province offers a wide range of outdoor recreational activities.

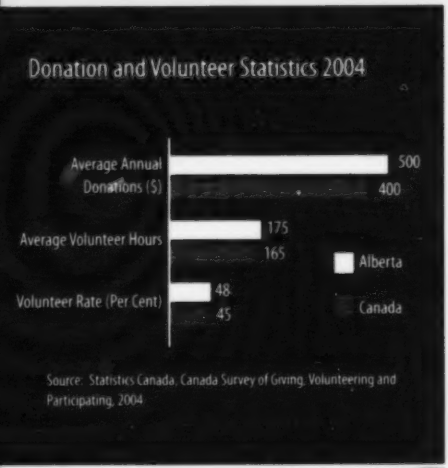
Both Edmonton and Calgary offer numerous sport and recreational opportunities. Each city has professional teams in football, hockey and baseball. In addition, Alberta has world-class sporting facilities, a legacy of Calgary hosting the XVth Winter Olympiad, and Edmonton hosting the Commonwealth Games and 2001 IAAF World Championships in Athletics.

Alberta has Canada's second highest spending level on recreational activities in 2004, second only to Ontario. Alberta households spent $1,672 on recreation in 2004, $265 more than that of the average Canadian household. Walking, bicycling and swimming are the top three recreational activities of Albertans. The wide range of indoor and outdoor activities available to Albertans is evident in the variety of sports and recreational activities they engage in.

Top 20 Sports and Recreation Activities in Alberta : 2004

Sport and Recreation Activity	Household Participation Rates (%)
1 Walking for Pleasure	93.0
2 Bicycling	56.0
3 Swimming (in pools)	54.1
4 Overnight Camping	45.3
5 Golf (othr than mini-golf)	44.9
6 Aerobics/Fitness/Aquasize/Yoga	43.9
7 Weight Training	36.1
8 Day Hiking	35.8
9 Jogging/Running	35.6
10 Swimming (e.g. in lakes, rivers, ponds)	32.6
11 Ice Skating (not hockey)	29.6
12 Fishing	29.3
13 Tobogganing/Sledding	24.7
14 Downhill Skiing	22.5
15 In-line Skating	20.9
16 Motor Boating	19.6
17 Soccer	19.3
18 Basketball	18.1
19 Birdwatching	17.9
20 Softball/Baseball	17.2

Note: Excludes cultural and miscellaneous activities
Source: Alberta Community Development, 2004 Alberta Recreation Survey



Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 2004

VOLUNTEERISM

Charitable giving, volunteering time to charitable and non-profit organizations, and helping people in need directly help build community. The Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP) undertaken by Statistics Canada aims to collect information to better understand what motivates Canadians to give to charity and in the process optimize this positive influence in society.

Albertans give generously of their time and money for charitable causes. The latest survey on giving and volunteering (2004) ranked Alberta first among Canadian provinces in terms of average annual donations. On average Albertans donated $500 per year on charitable causes compared to $400 donated by the average Canadian.

Albertans are also known for their volunteer spirit. Relatively more Albertans volunteered than the national average and logged longer hours than the average Canadian volunteer.

Alberta Government	www.gov.ab.ca
Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry	www.employment.alberta.ca www.alberta-canada.com

Doing Business in Alberta:

Investing and Locating	www.alberta-canada.com/investLocate
Exporting Your Products	www.alberta-canada.com/export
Manufacturing	www.alberta-canada.com/manufacturing
Tourism Industry	www.alberta-canada.com/tourism/albertaTourismOperations
Community/Market Information	www.albertafirst.com

Visiting Alberta:

Travel Alberta	www.travelalberta.ca
List of Festivals in Alberta	www.cd.gov.ab.ca/artsbranch/art_festivals
Vacation Guides	www.travelalberta.com/cfforms/freestuff
Provincial Parks	www.cd.gov.ab.ca/enjoying_alberta/parks/planning/gateway/interim2.aspx

Working and Living in Alberta:

Immigrating	www.alberta-canada.com/immigration
Things to Do	www.tprc.gov.ab.ca
Health Care	www.health.gov.ab.ca
Education	www.education.gov.ab.ca
Alberta Learning Information	www.alis.gov.ab.ca
Home Prices	www.mls.ca

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